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Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Letter dated 25 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the communication which we sent to you on 22 October (A/62/501). In it we asked you to circulate as a United Nations document Decree No. 99-2007 by the President of the Republic of Nicaragua, Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, declaring a state of national disaster in the entire country on 18 October 2007.

In that connection, you will find enclosed the presentation made in the National Emergency Council by the Head of the Civil Defence Department of the Army of Nicaragua, Colonel Perezcassar, with the latest data on the national disaster situation (see annex), for circulation as a General Assembly document under agenda items 54 (c) and 71 (a).

(*Signed*) María **Rubiales de Chamorro**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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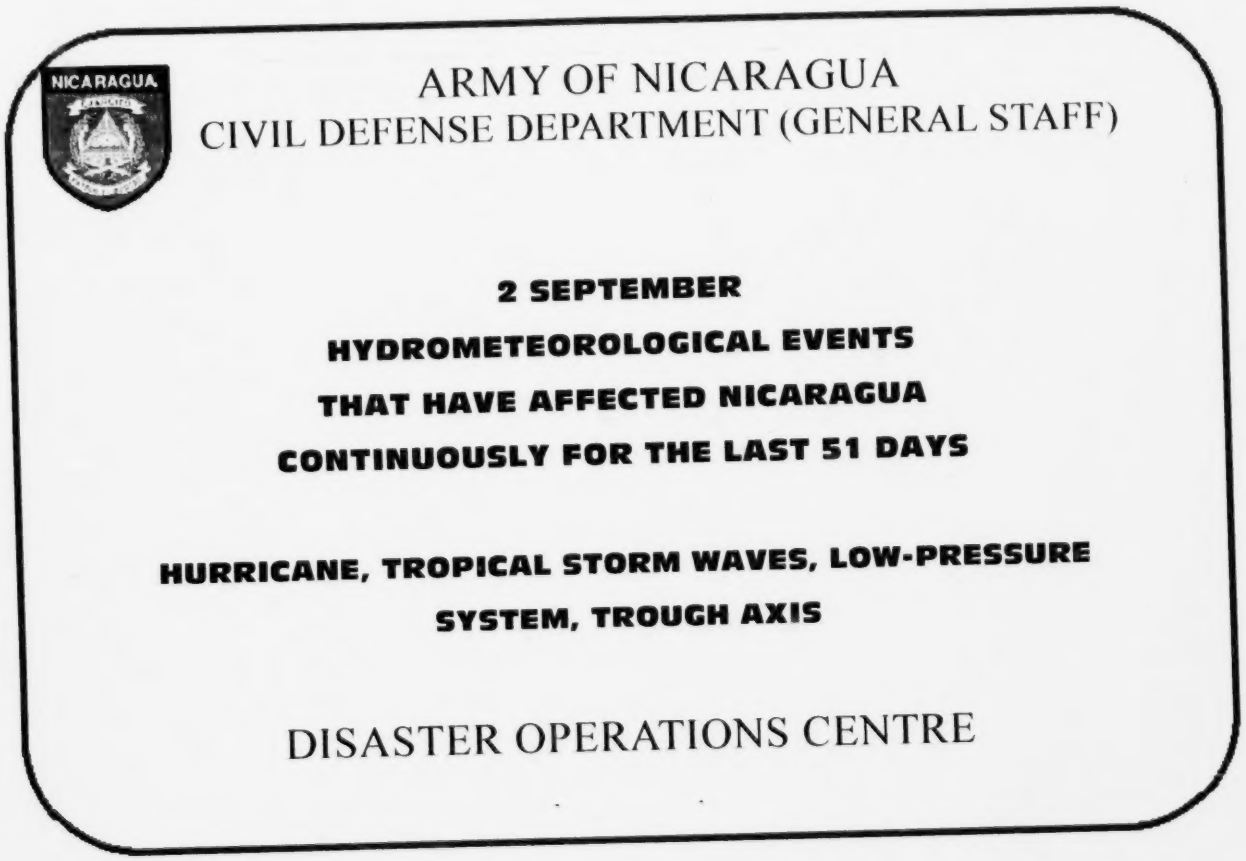
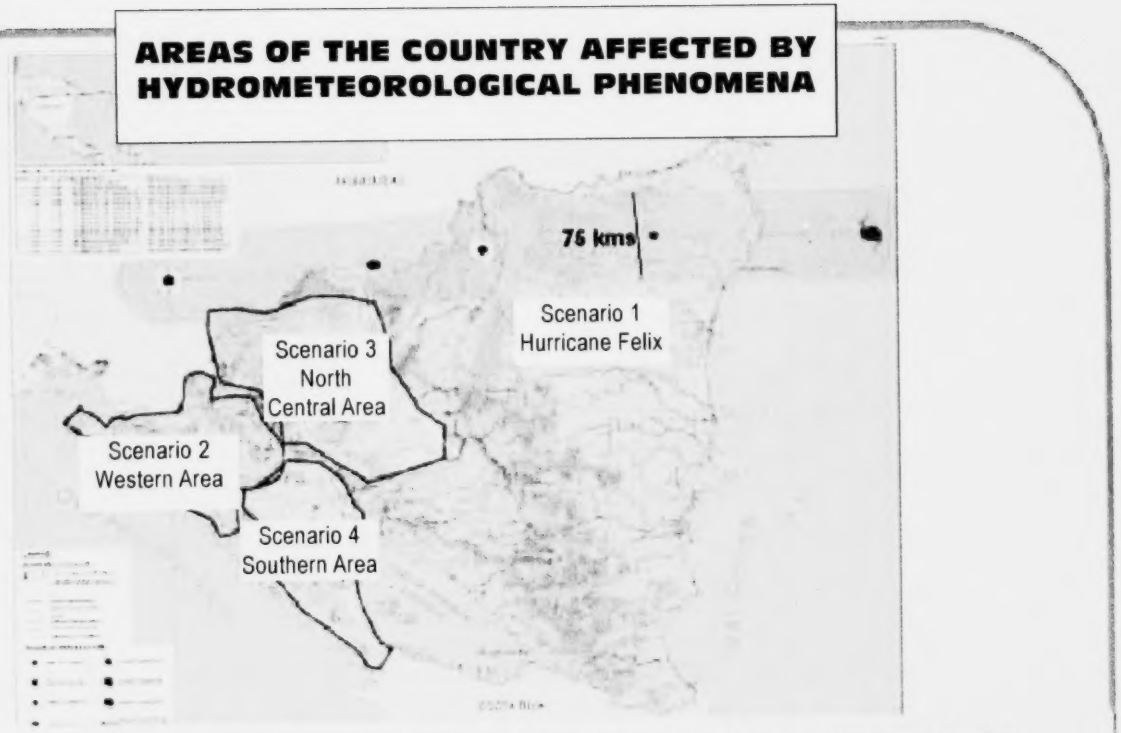
Annex to the letter dated 25 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General





Nicaragua is a country that, because of its geographical position, is exposed to the impact of a number of meteorological phenomena. In the last 51 days we have been affected by various hydrometeorological events such as Hurricane Felix, a trough axis, low-pressure systems and tropical storm waves.

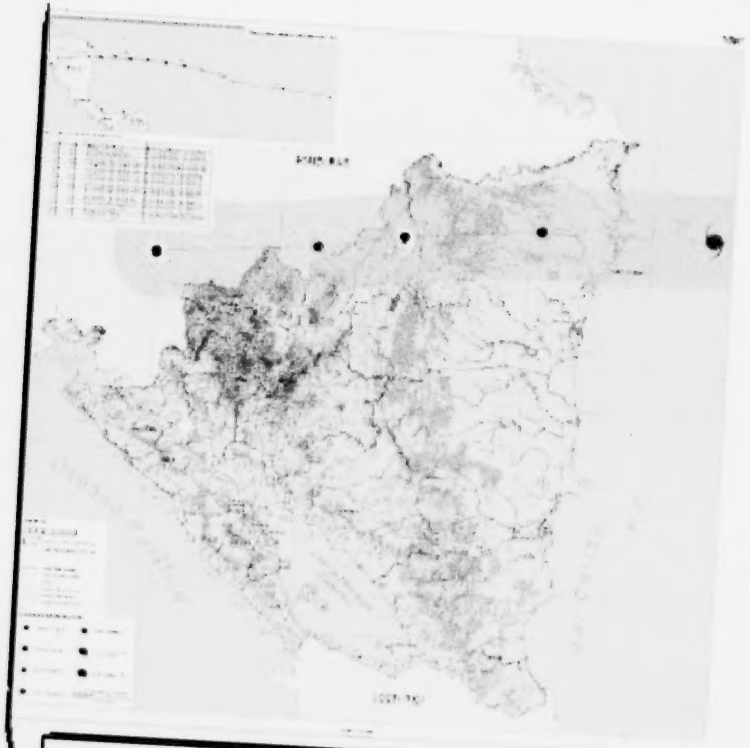
In order to assess the magnitude of the damage caused by these events, we have divided the country into four main scenarios, within each one of which the damage is pictured in detail, and obtained a national overview.

HURRICANE FELIX
4 September 2007

HURRICANE FELIX
AWASTARA

HURRICANE FELIX
SANTA MARTHA

RESULTS OF THE EVENT



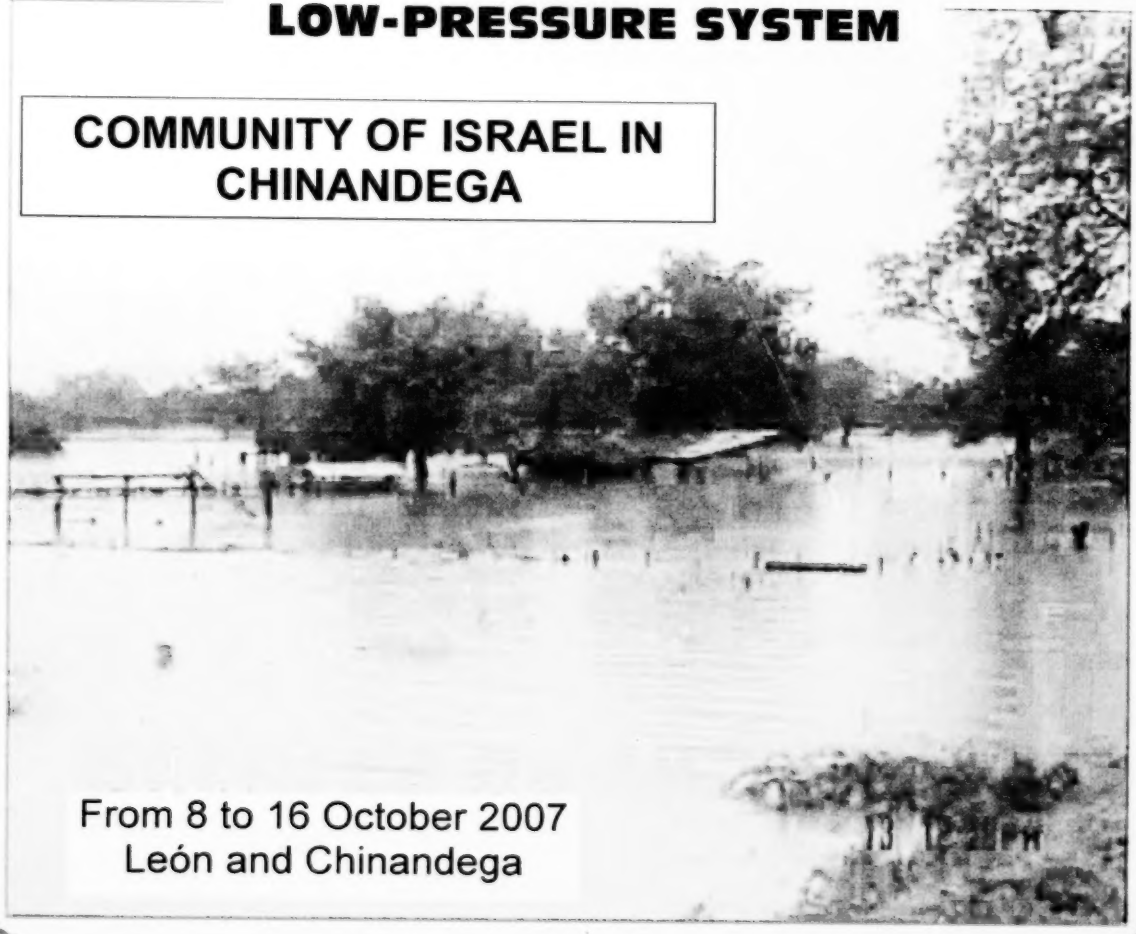
Population Affected

33,687	Families
198,069	Persons
133	Disappeared persons
	106 Confirmed
	27 Still to be confirmed
102	Dead
	67 Identified
	35 Unidentified
136	Rescued
350	Localities affected
994	Kilometres of roads

HOUSES DAMAGED						
ROOFS TORN OFF	DESTROYED	TOTAL	PUBLIC BUILDINGS	PRIVATE BUILDINGS	LATRINES	WELLS
10 249	10 145	20 394	145	57	13 439	11 519

SCENARIO 2
LOW-PRESSURE SYSTEM

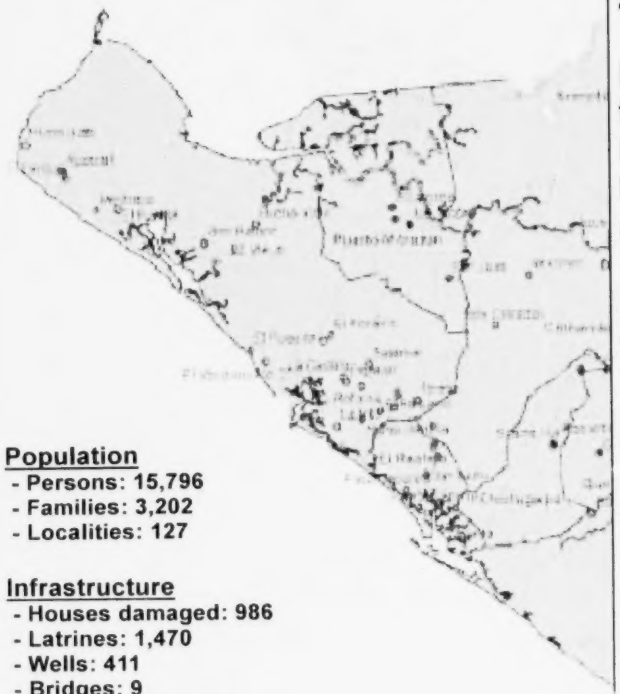
COMMUNITY OF ISRAEL IN CHINANDEGA



SCENARIO 2
LOW-PRESSURE SYSTEM

SCENARIO 2
LOW-PRESSURE SYSTEM
PANAMERICAN HIGHWAY
CHINANDEGA-GUASAULE

LOW-PRESSURE SYSTEM (Chinandega and León)



Population
- Persons: 15,796
- Families: 3,202
- Localities: 127

Infrastructure
- Houses damaged: 986
- Latrines: 1,470
- Wells: 411
- Bridges: 9
- Roads: 806 kms

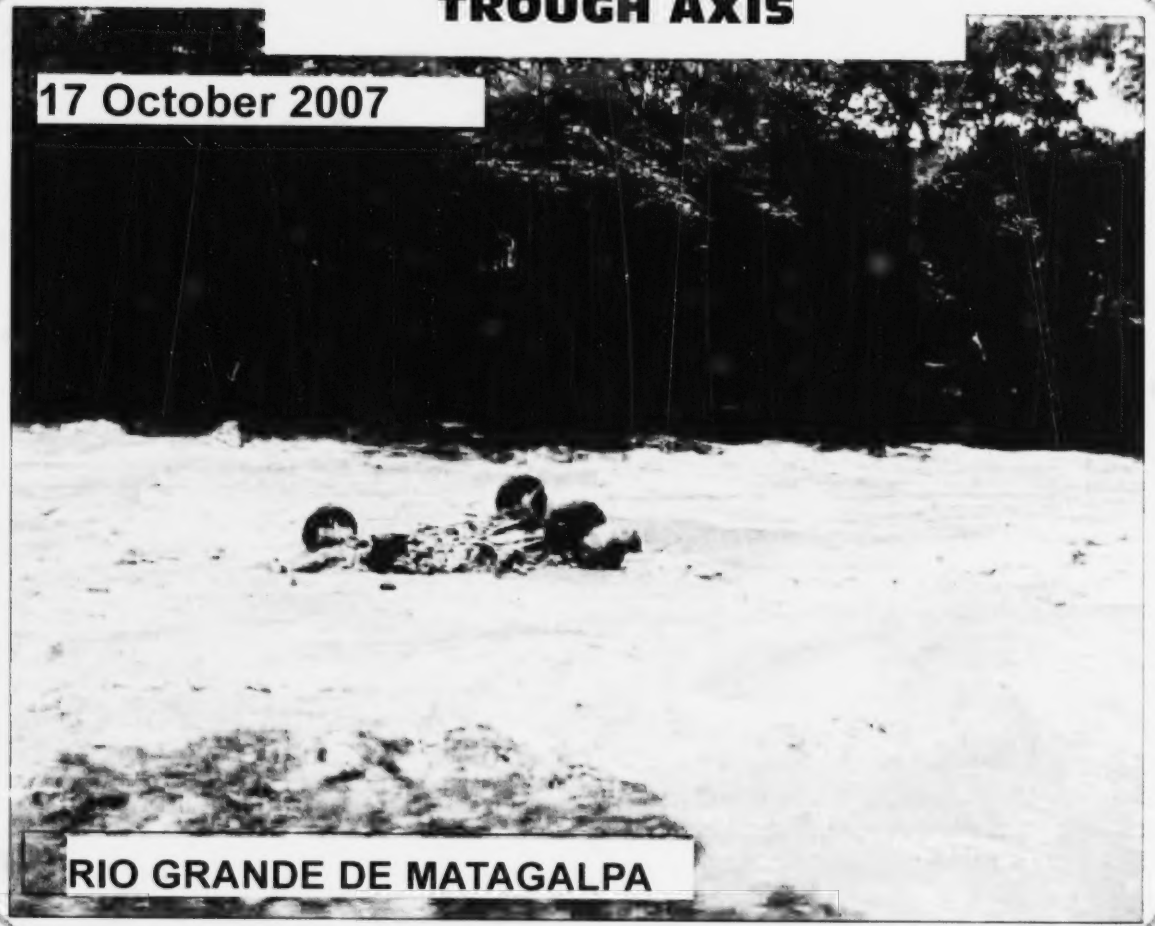
The western area comprises two departments, 23 towns, 1,208 communities with a total area of 10,289 square kilometres and a population of 808,568.

It is highly vulnerable to landslides and flooding, which have occurred recurrently, leaving in their wake desolation and a high loss of property and lives (Hurricane Mitch and the Casitas disaster).

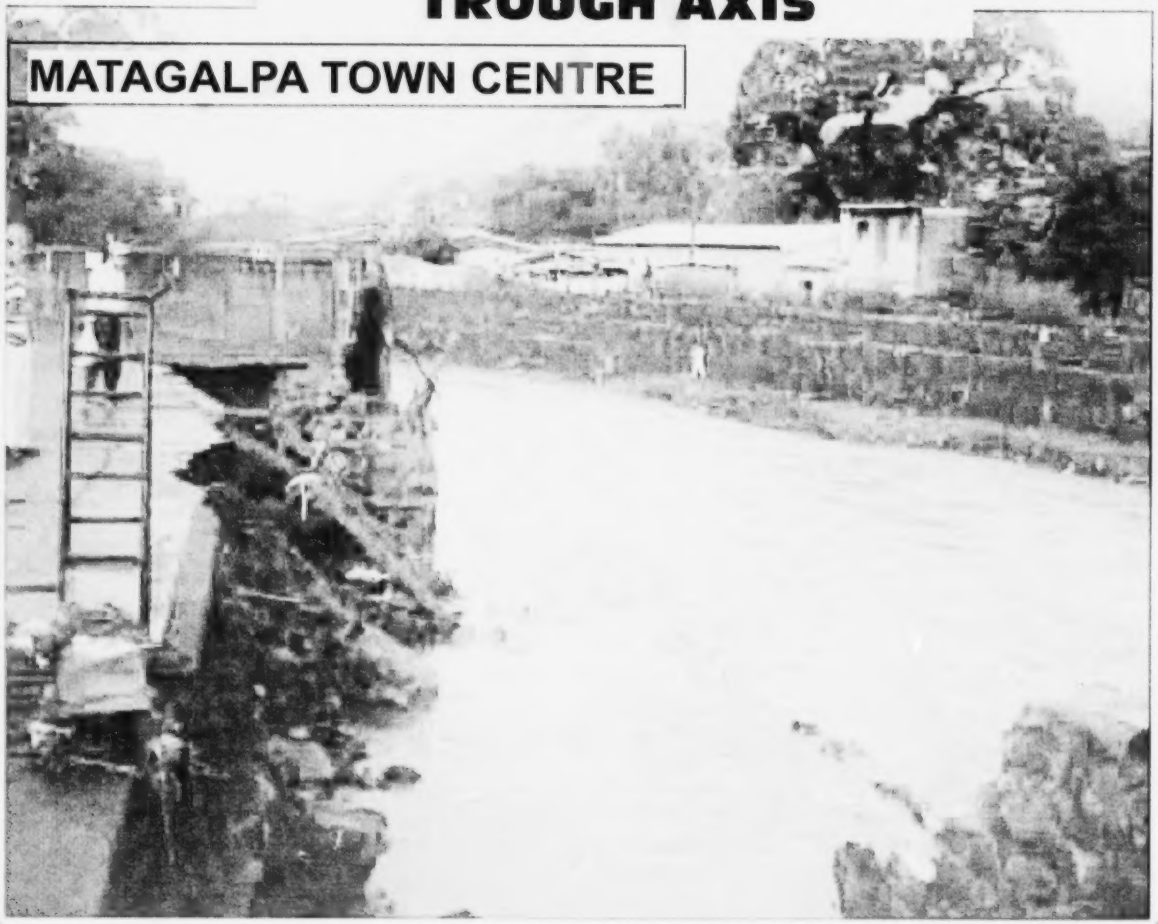
It is one of the areas with the highest levels of agricultural and livestock production, which has been severely affected by the recent floods; the same is true for the coastal fringe where the shrimp farms are situated.

With respect to the road infrastructure, there is heavy damage to the main roads (Pan-American Highway between Chinandega and Guasaule), and to the large roads leading to the farming areas. A number of the bridges that connect the rural areas have also been affected.

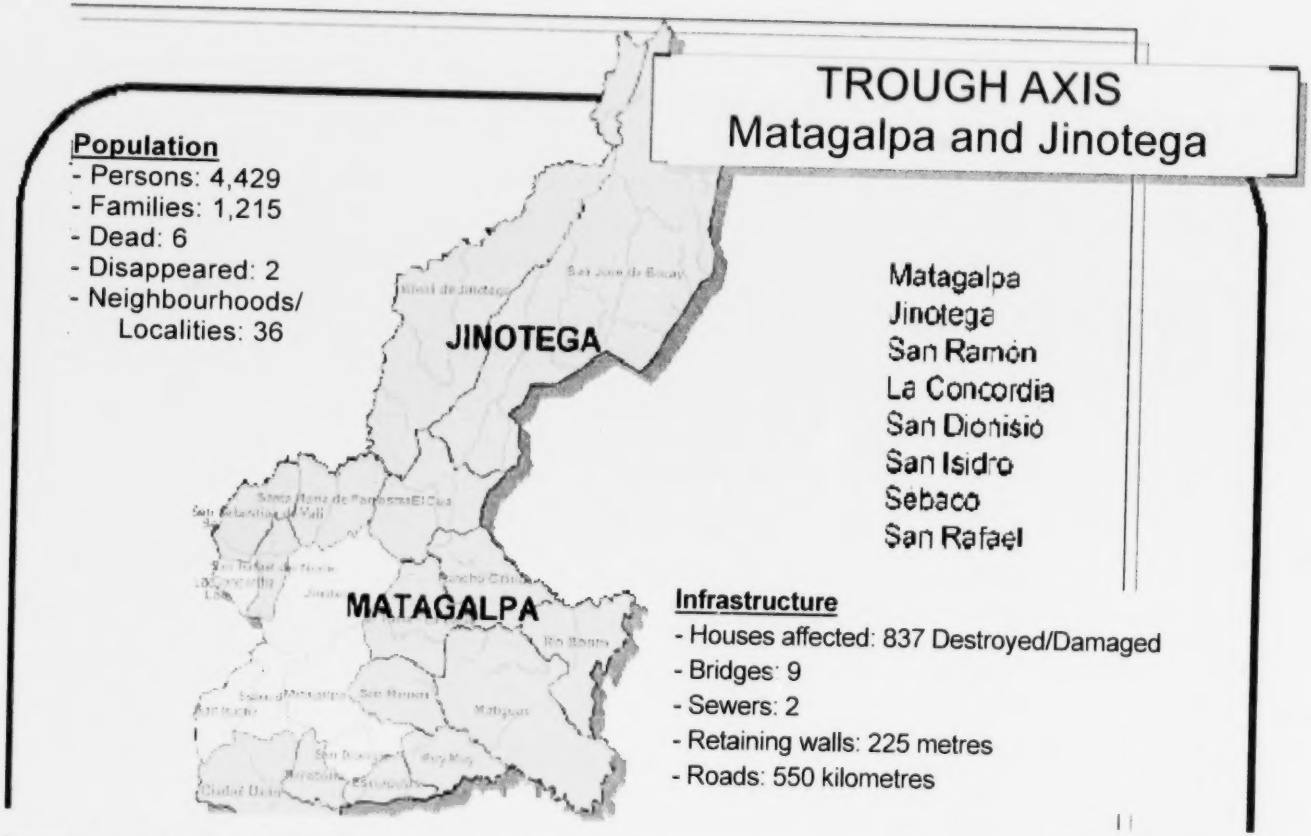
SCENARIO 3
TROUGH AXIS



SCENARIO 3
TROUGH AXIS



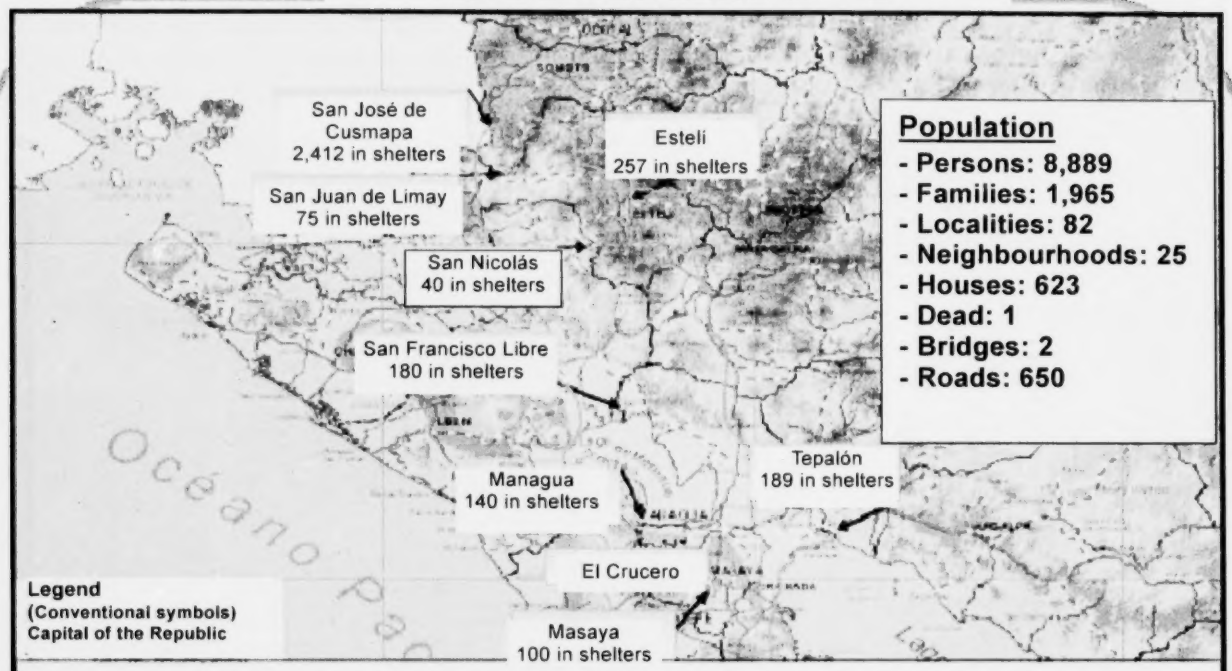
SCENARIO 3
TROUGH AXIS
MATAGALPA TOWN CENTRE



The departments of Matagalpa and Jinotega are situated in north-central Nicaragua. They comprise 21 towns, and the total area is 18,367 square kilometres. It is the main area of the country for growing coffee, vegetables, rice and livestock and also one of the main milk and milk-product producing areas.

Their topography makes them highly vulnerable to landslides and flooding. They have been struck by various disasters, the most recent being the Cerro Musún landslide in 2004.

SCENARIO 4



This scenario is complex because of the distance between the places affected and because the damage was recurrent, which meant that the disaster-readiness-and-response plan was complicated.

In these places, the main damage was to buildings and the road infrastructure, and to the farming and livestock sectors.
It is important to point out that there was environmental damage in all four scenarios, with damage to the watersheds, the broad-leafed and pine forests and the mangrove swamps.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND ITS COMPONENTS

Damage (complete) in 680,000 and (partial) in 214,900 hectares for a total of 894,000 hectares of forest in the broad-leafed, pine and mangrove plant cover.

Damage in 11 protected areas: Saslaya Park, Miskitos Keys (Yulu, Alamikamba and Limbayka); Estero Real River Delta Nature Reserve; the San Cristóbal volcano complex, Juan Venado Island; the Chacocente and La Flor Wildlife Refuges and the Madera and Tepesomoto Patasma Nature Reserves.

A total of 600 million dollars of damage resulted from the losses, which is the value of woodland as a natural resource, calculating its carbon-fixing, water-percolation and biodiversity-generation functions.

Damage to the watersheds of the Rivers Coco, Wawa, Kukalaya, Prinzapolka, Grande de Matagalpa, Estero Real, Sinecapa and Negro and of Lake Apanás.

Damages in the form of climate change owing to the loss of woodland (an increase in carbon emissions of about 74 per cent).

The needs are reforestation, clean-up, clearing and protection against fires.

SUMMARY

- Families affected: **40,069**
- Persons: **227,183** Deceased: **109** Disappeared: **135**
- Number of towns affected: **51**
- Number of localities: **619** Infrastructural damage: **22,840** homes destroyed or semi-destroyed
- Schools, health centres and churches: **150**
- Agricultural sector: **150,000** hectares of various crops
- Livestock sector: **45,000** heads of livestock of all kinds
- Forests: **894,900** hectares
- Road network: **3,000** kilometres of roads of all kinds
- Bridges: **20** destroyed or damaged

THE REHABILITATION PLAN

These scenarios represent a human, cultural, ecological and agricultural tragedy, but they are also an opportunity to launch a coordinated, integrated push towards national development by those working at the communal, municipal, territorial, regional and national levels.

The strategy for meeting the food needs of the affected population includes ensuring a direct flow of food to the communities for a six-month period, providing seeds and agricultural and livestock supplies, restocking poultry and flocks and offering emergency financing to shrimp and fish farms for the purchase of fishing gear and equipment.

THE REHABILITATION PLAN
(*continued*)

Activities during the reconstruction phase need to be guided by a framework for formulating a basic action plan for the next six months, focusing on basic humanitarian assistance to the population affected, in the areas of health, food, housing and social infrastructure. This will comprise:

Rehabilitation of production and agriculture;

Reconstruction of the main roads of communication;

Rehabilitation of rural roads and farm roads;

Protection against forest fires (Caribbean and northern areas of the country);

Forest rehabilitation throughout the damaged Pacific area.

Certain vital expenditures during the rehabilitation phase have been calculated in both the Caribbean and Pacific areas, with a view to reducing various vulnerabilities in order to lessen the risk to which the population is exposed.

COST SUMMARY

RECONSTRUCTION AFTER HURRICANE FELIX

	Requirements
EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES	US$ 16,500,000
SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING	US$ 148,000,000
RISK MANAGEMENT	US$ 2,500,000
HEALTH	US$ 40,000,000
AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK REHABILITATION	US$ 46,000,000
REHABILITATION OF FISHERIES	US$ 21,000,000
FOREST PROTECTION AND UTILIZATION	US$ 18,300,000
TOTAL	US$ 292,300,000

COST SUMMARY (*continued*)

PACIFIC AREA REHABILITATION

	Requirements
Emergency food supplies	US$ 2,798,400
Housing	US$ 8,000,000
Road infrastructure	US$ 52,000,000
Risk management	US$ 2,500,000
Health	US$ 9,000,000
Agricultural and livestock rehabilitation	US$ 15,000,000
Rehabilitation of fisheries	US$ 5,000,000
Forest protection and utilization	US$ 6,000,000
TOTAL	US$ 100,298.400

GENERAL SUMMARY

Caribbean Area	Requirements	Pacific Area	Requirements
EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES	US$ 16,500,000	EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES	US$ 2,798,400
SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING	US$ 148,000,000	HOUSING	US$ 8,000,000
RISK MANAGEMENT	US$ 2,500,000	ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE	US$ 52,000,000
HEALTH	US$ 40,000,000	RISK MANAGEMENT	US$ 2,500,000
AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK REHABILITATION	US$ 46,000,000	HEALTH	US$ 9,000,000
REHABILITATION OF FISHERIES	US$ 21,000,000	AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK REHABILITATION	US$ 15,000,000
FOREST PROTECTION AND UTILIZATION	US$ 18,300,000	REHABILITATION OF FISHERIES	US$ 5,000,000
		FOREST PROTECTION AND UTILIZATION	US$ 6,000,000
TOTAL	**US$ 292,300,000**	**TOTAL**	**US$ 100,298,400**

Overall total US$ 392,589,400